



To SAMUEL EGERTON BRYDGES, ESQ^R. This VIEW of
formerly the Seat of the Lords Chandos.



the RUINS of SUDELEY CASTLE, in Gloucestershire.
is dedicated by his sincere friend.

Cooper Willyams.

Put according to Act of Parliament Feb 11 1791 by I Robson, Bond Street.

THE

5 May 186.

HISTORY

OF

SUDELEY CASTLE,

IN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE,

BY THE

REV. COOPER WILLYAMS,

VICAR OF IXNING, IN SUFFOLK.

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THE
HISTORY
OF
SUDELEY CASTLE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

IT is impossible that a contemplative mind should behold the scenes of past magnificence, without feeling highly interested by them, however small the remaining traces of their better days may be. For, to the mind's eye, the whole picture revives, and every spot, however ruinous and deserted, is re-peopled by its former inhabitants. It becomes necessary therefore, to complete the full pleasure, that may be received from the reviewing of the tumbling walls, and scattered fragments, of old buildings, to be made acquainted with their history.

On this account, and not because I have any material original matter to communicate, it seems proper to collect together here some account of

SUDELEY CASTLE.

From the time of the conquest, at least, this was a baronial residence, and probably before, since it was then suffered to continue, as it seems, in the hands of a *Saxon*; for, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, Harold, son to Ralph, Earl of Hereford* (who, in King Edward the Confessor's days, suffered the Welsh to enter that city, and destroy it by fire) being possessed of several Lordships in different counties, and of SUDELEY and Todington, in Gloucestershire, had his chief seat at SUDELEY; and, afterwards obtaining Ewias, in Herefordshire, founded there a little priory for monks of St. Benedict's order.

This Harold (whose wife is said to have been Maud, daughter to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, by which, it is added, he obtained Ewias, in Herefordshire+) had issue two sons,

* Son to Walter de Maunt, by Goda, sister to king Edward the Confessor, Dug. Bar. I. 21. Probably this Walter was a Norman, who, like many others, came over long before the Conquest, in which case Harold was only a Saxon by the female line.

+ Coll. Bartge. 1720. Vol. I. p. 201.

John,

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John, Lord of Sudeley, and a younger son, Robert, who, being seated at Ewias, assumed that name, and whose descendants will be mentioned hereafter, as ancestors, by the female line, of the Bridges's, future possessors of this castle.

John, Lord of Sudeley, (is said to have married Grace, daughter of Tracy, of the family of the Barons of Barnstable, Co. Devon,* and) had issue Ralph, son and heir, (and William 2d. son, who took his mother's name of TRACY, and is supposed to have had a gift of his father's manor of Todington, in this neighbourhood, where this most ancient and honourable family have ever since resided, it being at present the seat of his immediate male descendant, Viscount TRACY.†)

Ralph de Sudeley, elder brother of William, was living 12 Hen. II. and founded the priory of Erdbury, in Warwickshire, for the health of his soul, and the soul of Emme, his wife, daughter of William de Beauchamp, of Elmeley. He left Otwell, his son and heir, who was a benefactor to the Knights Templars; but, dying without issue, left Ralph his brother and heir, 10 Rich. I. who was father of another Ralph, who succeeded 6 Hen. III. and had issue, Bartholomew, sheriff of Herefordshire, and governor of Hereford castle, in the reigns of Hen. III. and Edw. I. He had issue by Joan, his wife, sister to William de Beauchamp, first Earl of Warwick, John, his son and heir, who was 24 years old at his father's death, in the 8 Edw. I.

This John de Sudeley attended the king in most of his wars both at home, and abroad; and had summons to parliament as a baron, from the 28 of Edw. I. to the 13 Edw. II. inclusive. He was a liberal benefactor to religious foundations. His wife was daughter of Lord Say, but he died without issue, 10 Edw. III. leaving John, son of Bartholomew de Sudeley, his heir, and then thirty years old. This John married Eleanor, daughter of Robert Lord Scales, and had issue a son, John de Sudeley, who, in 40 Edw. III. attended Prince Edward in his expedition into Gascony, but died the next year without issue; upon which, his sister Margery, wife of Sir Robert Massey, Knt. and Thomas Boteler, son of Joane, his other sister, who married William Le Boteler, of Wemme, Co. Salop, became his coheirs.‡ Sudeley castle, and other estates, were allotted to

T H O M A S B O T E L E R,

who, upon coming of age, had possession of his mother's inheritance, 4 Rich. II. In 13

* Coll. Bartge. ut supr. p. 201.

† They bear the Sudeley arms with the addition of an escutcheon between the bendlets, on the field gules.—See Coll. Bartge. ut supr. In the Liber Niger Scacc. under Gloucestershire, and the charter of Ralph de Sutleia, there is this mention of the TRACYS,

“ Item Willelmus de Traci de novo feffamento de dominio suo, feod. I. milit.

Umfridus, filius Willelmi, de novo feffamento de dominio suo, & de dono Rogeri parvi, foedum unius militis.”

‡ Dug. Bar. I. 248—249.

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Rich. II. being then a knight, he had licence to travel into France. / He died Sept. 20, 22 Rich. II. leaving John Le Boteler, his son and heir, then 14 years old; who, dying without issue, was succeeded in the inheritance by his brother Raphe.

During the reign of Hen. VI. this Raphe frequently served the king in the wars of France; and, having stood firm to the Lancastrian interest, in all the warm contests between that and the house of York, being, in 20 Hen. VI. lord chamberlain of the king's household, he was, by letters patent bearing date Sept. 10, that year, advanced to the dignity of a baron of the realm, by the name of Lord SUDELEY of SUDELEY, in Co. Glouc. to hold to himself, and the heirs male of his body, with the fee of 200 marks for the better support of the dignity, to be annually received out of the farms of the county of Lincoln. On July 7, the next year, he was made treasurer of the king's exchequer, and sent ambassador with Richard, duke of York, and some others, to treat of peace with the French.

In 22 Hen. VI. in farther remuneration of his eminent services, he had a grant of an annuity of 40l. per ann. during his life, to be received out of the farm of the forest of Dene. Likewise holding that great office of treasurer of England, in 22 Hen. VI. he had for his winter robe, against Christmas, an allowance out of the king's wardrobe of 10 ells of fine cloth, of colour violet in grain; and, for its lining, 300 bellies of minever.

In 23 Hen. VI. he was again sent ambassador (with the archbishop of York, and others) to treat of peace with the French, and was in continual employments of trust and dignity during this reign. But, upon the fall of the unhappy king, the scene being altered, he excused himself from coming to parliament, on account of his age; and found so much favour, notwithstanding his former services to the house of Lancaster, that he obtained the king's letters patent, exempting him from that service during his life. Yet the same spirit of indulgence in the house of York does not seem to have been long continued towards him, as will be presently shewn.

This Raphe, Lord Boteler of Sudeley, was the re-builder of the castle here, whose ruins are exhibited in the print that accompanies this account. It was raised in a style of uncommon magnificence for that age, from the spoils, as it is said, he got in the wars of France. The windows were glazed with beryll, which is mentioned as a circumstance of extraordinary splendor---but hear old Leland's own words in his Itinerary.*

" The castle of Sudeley is about halfe a mile from Winchecombe. - - - - Boteler, L. Sudeley, made this castle a fundamentis, and when it was made, it had the price of all the buildinges in those dayes. I read but of one L. Sudeley of the Botelers, and his name was Thomas,

* Vol. IV. f. 170, 2.

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as it appeareth in the glasse windowes, at Winchecombe, in St. Peter's church. Therefore I take it, it was this Thomas that made the castle. Yet did Mr. Tracy tell mee, that Rafe Boteler buylde the castle, but he shewed noe authoritye why. Indeed, Thomas had a sonne called Rafe, sett as youngest in order in the glasse windowes, in St. Peter's church.

" The L. Sudeley, that buylde the castle, was a famous man of warre in K. Hen. V. and K. Hen. VI. dayes, and was an admirall (as I have heard) on sea; whereupon it was supposed, and spoken, that it was partly buylde *ex Spoliis Gallorum*, and some speake of a towre in it called Potmare's Towre, that it should be made of a ransome of his.

" One thinge was to be noted in this castle, that part of the windowes of it were glazed with berall. There had beene a manour place at Sudeley, before the building of the castle, and the platte is yet seen in Sudeley parke where it stooode.

" K. Edw. IV. bore noe good will to the L. Sudeley, as a man suspected to be, in heart, K. Hen. VI. his man; whereupon by complaints he was attached, and, going up to London, he looked from the hill to Sudeley, and sayd, *Sudeley Castle, thou art a traytor, not I.* After he made an honest declaration, and fould his castle of Sudeley to K. Edw. IV.*

" Afterwards K. Hen. VII. gave this castle to his uncle Jasper, D. of Bedford, or permitted him to have the use of it. Now it goeth to ruine, more pitty. The Tracys of Todington were sett up by landes given them by the Botelers.†"

" There runneth a pratty lake out of Sudeley Park, downe by the castle, and runneth into Esseburne brooke, at the south syde of Winchecombe."

In another place he also says;‡ " The lordshipe of Sudeley, in Gloucestershire, longed to the Botelers, that were westerne men. One Rafe Boteler, Lord Sudeley, buylde the castle of Sudeley about the time of Hen. VI. and Edw. IV. Boteler, Lord Sudeley, was emprisoned in Edw. IV's days, whereupon he resignid his castle into the handes of K. Edward. This castell came after to Gaspar, Duke of Bedford, that kepte howseholde here. The Hawle of Sudeley castle glazed with round beralls."

This Jaspar was younger son of Owen Tudor, and Katherine, his wife, widow of Hen. V. of England, and died Dec. 21, 11 Hen. VII. but Sudeley Castle is not mentioned among the estates of which he died siezed, so that I presume he had only the use of it.

* He died May 2, 13 Edw. IV. leaving his two nephews, Sir John Norbury, and William Belknap, sons of his sisters, Elizabeth and Joan, his heirs. His widow, Eleanor, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, was pre-contracted to Edward IV. before he fell in love with, and married Elizabeth Woodvile.

† So Leland, but see before ‡ Vol. 8. f. 74, b. 75, b.

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Such was the state of the castle in Hen. VIII's time, when Leland wrote. It then belonged to the crown, and was going to ruin; but in 1 Edw. VI. it was granted by that king to his uncle Thomas Seymour, who was, in Feb. 6, that year, created Lord Seymour of Sudeley, and made Lord High Admiral of England.

This Thomas, Lord Sudeley, was a man infatiably ambitious, fierce, and turbulent, and aspired to the bed of the princess (afterwards queen) Elizabeth, then scarce marriageable: but, being disappointed in his scheme, was supposed to have satisfied his aspiring temper by marrying, about 1547, Katherine Parr, the widow of Hen. VIII. to whom she had been married on Jul. 12, 1543, at Hampton Court. She was the daughter of Sir William Parr, and had been twice before married, 1st. to Edward Borough, and 2d. to John Nevile, Lord Latimer. She was a woman of the most amiable disposition, and excellent natural abilities, which her father, as the best fortune he could give her, had improved by all the accomplishments of a polite and learned education. She had lived with Henry three years and a half, during which she had the good fortune not only to escape with her life, but to preserve his affection, even at a period at which his fierce and intractable temper was rendered more furious by declining health. And now she probably hoped, in the arms of a subject, whom she loved and admired, to enjoy happiness which a crown could not confer. Lord Sudeley repaired with splendor his castle here, and is supposed to have built the chapel of rich gothic architecture, of which the shell is now remaining here. But her happiness was short-lived; and, having escaped the capricious cruelty of a tyrant, whom she had reason to fear, she is thought to have fallen a victim to the ambition of the man, from whom she hoped the rewards of a mutual affection. A new scene of troubles now arose: for, between the matchless pride and imperiousness of her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Somerset, and the aspiring views of her husband, such furious animosities ensued, as proved the destruction of both families, which necessarily involved her in such troubles and perplexities, as put a final stop to her studies, and to all temporal enjoyments. She had not lived long with the admiral, when he is supposed to have again aspired to the Princess Elizabeth;* and, as no obstacles were insurmountable by his desires, however wicked the means, the queen being delivered of a daughter, and dying in child-bed in September 1548, it was not without the suspicion of poison, as several of our writers observe. And, indeed, she herself apprehended some unfair dealings; and, on her death-bed, roundly reproached the admiral for his unkind usage.†

Ballard, and others, who have mentioned this unfortunate queen, were not able to discover where she died, or where she was buried. But, from a MS. concerning her funeral, published in *Rudder's Gloucestershire*, it appeared she died, and was buried here, at Sudeley. From this hint Dr. Nash, and some friends, went to Sudeley on purpose to discover the body in the chapel, in which all monumental memorials had long since perished, the building having

* See some curious particulars of the Prince's coquetry with the admiral, in Nichols's *Progresses of Queen Elizabeth*.

† See Ballard's *Memoirs of Learned Ladies*.

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been unroofed and bared to the very walls in the unfortunate rebellion. A little way under ground he discovered the coffin. Upon opening it, the body was found in perfect preservation; but, upon coming to the air, turned in part to dust.*

After the Queen's death, Lord Sudeley more importunately sought the Lady Elizabeth than ever, eagerly endeavouring to procure her consent to a clandestine marriage (as was that with the deceased Queen) and, not till after the nuptials, to ask the assent of the King, or Lords of the council. But the plot being discovered, and, by the intrigues of the common enemies of the family, the quarrels between him and his brother, the Protector, being fomented, he found no favour, but was committed to the Tower, condemned without a trial, and, on March 20, 1549, publickly beheaded. The Castle was then granted to William Parr, Marquis of Northampton, who forfeited it soon after.

Upon the accession of Queen Mary, 1553, that Queen granted this castle to Sir John Bridges,† of Coberley,‡ in this county, Knt. a strenuous espoufer of her succession; and, on

April

* See Dr. Nash's account of it in the first Art. of Vol. IX. of the Archaeologia.

† He had before been appointed Constable of this castle, 29th, and again 34th Hen. VIII.

‡ He was descended from Sir Simon de Brugge, Lord of Brugge (afterwards called Brugge-Solers) in Herefordshire, who forfeited that lordship 49 Hen. III. as appears by a grant of it by that King to Roger de Clifford. *Cart. 49 Hen. III. m. 1. In Turr. Londin.* “*Rex Archiep. &c. Sciatis nos dedisse &c. Rogero de Clifford &c. omnes terras et tenementa quæ fuerunt SIMONIS DE BRUGES IN BRUGES, inimici et rebellis nostri*” &c. And another charter 50 Hen. III. granting the lands of *Simon de Bruges* to Matilda, wife of Roger Mortimer. His grand-son, John de Brugge, was Knight of the shire for Herefordshire, 16 Edw. II. and his son, Sir Baldwin de Brugge, married Isabel, daughter of Peter de Grandison, the elder (for it seems to me there were two, father and son,) and co-heir to her nephew, Thomas (with Mabil, wife of Sir John Patshul, Katherine, wife of Guy de Brian, perhaps the same, who was also wife of William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and Agnes, wife of John de Northwood, but compare the contradictions in *Lel. Itin. III. f. 38.* and *VIII. f. 84, b.* and *Dugd. Bar. 11--18--150,* and *Philp. Vill. Cant. under Seale.*) Peter de Grandison was son of William and Sibil, co-heir to John de Tregoz, son of Robert de Ewias, younger brother of John de Sudeley before-mentioned. Sir Baldwin Brugge had issue, by Isabel Grandison, Sir John Brugge, 2d. son, of Staunton (whose heiress married into the family of Baskerville, of Erdisley;) Simon, 3d. son, of the Lea, in the parish of Webley, Co. Heref. (whose descendants remained there to the beginning of this century,) and, Thomas de Brugge, 1st. son, who was settled at Coberley, Co. Glouc. by marrying Alice, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Berkeley, of that place, and Elizabeth, sister and co-heir of the famous Sir John CHANDOS, Knight of the Garter, who died 49 Edw. III. son of Sir Roger Chandos, by the sister and heir of Sir Richard Damory, son of Sir John Chandos, by Philippa, sister, and, as it seems, at length co-heir of Guy de Brian. (See Harl. MSS. 807. f. 103. and Dugd. Bar. 11--101--151.) Sir Thomas Brugge, who died about 1406, was grand-father of Thomas Bridges, of Coberley, Esq; Knight of the shire for Co. Glouc. 38 Hen. VI. and 12 Edw. IV. who had issue,

I. Sir Giles Bridges, of Coberley.

II. Henry Bridges, of Newbury, Co. Berks, Esq; who, dying about 1538, had issue by the daughter of John Hungerford, Esq; two sons, Richard and Giles, and a daughter, the wife of Henry Gifford, Esq; of Itchel, in Crundal, Hants. Sir Richard Bridges was seated at Ludgarshall Castle, in Wilts. was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Queen Mary, and, dying 1548, was buried at Ludgarshall, where the fragments of his monument were some time since remaining. He married Jane, daughter of Sir William Spencer, of Wormleighton, who re-married Sir Simon Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt, and died his widow, at Luggershall, Sept. 29, 1593. She had issue by him two sons, I. Anthony Bridges, Esq; of Great Shefford, Berks. who died in the reign of Jam. I. and lies buried in Shefford church, leaving issue, by Barbara, co-heir of Sir Richard Pexal, of Beaurepair, Hants, Knt. a daughter and heir, Eleanor, wife of Sir George Browne, of Wickham-Breus, Kent. Knt. by whom she had no issue. II. Edmund Bridges, of Bradley, Co. Som. Esq; who, with his two sons, William and Anthony, was living 1594, and the latter seems to be the person who died at Collingbourne-Sunton, Wilts. in 1617.

Sir Giles Bridges, of Coberley (elder brother of Henry, of Newbury) was knighted at the battle of Blackheath, 1496, and died 1511, leaving issue,

I. John, created Lord Chandos, born 1500.

II. Thomas, of Cornbury, Co. Oxf. and Keinsham-Abbey, Co. Som. whose employments are set forth in the following epitaph, in Chadlington church, Co. Oxf. where he, and his first wife lie buried.



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April 8, 1554, created him, by patent, Baron CHANDOS, of SUDELEY, with limitation to the heirs male of his body. He was a person of high and unblemished character, a celebrated warrior, of eminent fidelity in his government of the tower, at the breaking out of Wyatt's rebellion, and behaved with great humanity at the execution of poor Lady Jane Gray, whom he attended on the scaffold. He died Mar. 2, 1557, leaving issue, by Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund, Lord Grey, of Wilton, five sons, besides Giles and Stephen, who died infants.

I. Edmund, 2d. Lord Chandos, born 1520, Knight of the Garter, died 1573. II. Charles, who was seated at Wilton-Castle, in Herefordshire, (upon the banks of the Wye, about a mile from Ross) which he purchased of his cousin, Arthur, Lord Grey of Wilton, and, repairing it, (then in a very ruinous state) he made it his residence; and, dying a very old man here in 1619, was buried at Bridstow. He was ancestor of James, 8th Lord Chandos, and his successors. III. Anthony Bridges, who married Katherine, daughter of Henry Fortescue, Esq; of Faulkbourne Hall, in Essex, one of the Esquires of the body to Q. Elizabeth. His issue male settled in Kent, and are now remaining there. IV. Henry Bridges, of Avening, Co. Glouc. who married Alice, the widow of ----- Compton, of Hartbury, Co. Glouc. but died Jan. 24, 1615, without issue, and is buried at Avening, under an handsome mural monument, with the figure of a warrior kneeling at a desk. V. Richard Bridges, of North-Carney, Co. Glouc. who died there 1592, leaving issue a son, John, who died without issue about 1656, leaving his sister, Frances, his heir, who was married to Richard Moore, of Hanwell, Co. Ox. and Rotherwick, Hants.

Giles, 3d. Lord Chandos, succeeded his father Edmund, 2d. Lord Chandos. He entertained Queen Elizabeth in one of her progresses here at Sudeley, in 1592. A curious portrait of him is at Lord Harcourt's, at Nuneham, and another at the Duke of Bedford's, whose ancestor, Francis, Earl of Bedford, married his daughter (and, at length, sole heir)

In a chapel, on the south side of the chancel, on a brass in the wall.

" Ante hunc lapidem directe sepulta jacet Johanna nuper uxor Thome Bridges Armigeri, Seneschalli exzellentissimi ac me- "
" tuendissimi viri Henrici Octavi, Dei gratia Anglie, Francie, et Hibernie Regis, Fidei Defensoris, et intra ---- Ecclesie "
" Anglicane et Hibernie, supremi Capitis, Hundredi sui de Chadlington, ac mannor' ejusdem Domini Regis de Shipton, "
" Spelsbury, ac Langley, necnon Mannor' et Villarum suorum de Burford, et Minster-Lovel in eodem Comit. Oxon. "
" ac etiam Magistri Forestarum, ac Custodis Ferarum ejusdem Domini Regis, infra Forestam de Whichwood; ac par- "
" cor' suor' de Langley et Cornbury ----- Soror, et una Heredum Johannis Sidenham de Orchard Com. "
" Somers. Armigeri, que obiit decimo septimo Aprilis A. D. MCCCCXLII, ac anno predicti Domini Regis "
" tricesimo tertio, cuius " &c.

On a brass on the ground the following fragment.

" Here lyeth Thomas Bridg -----"
" ----- the 14 day of Nov. -----"
" ----- MCCCCCLIX -----"

His son and heir, Henry, was then aged 22, and was ancestor of the Bridges's of Keinsham, of whom the last of the male line, George Bridges, Esq; of that place, and of Avington, Hants, died May 14, 1751, S. P. and devised his estates to his distant cousin, the Duke of Chandos. See a full account of them in the Topographer, Vol. I. p. 154.

III. William Bridges died S. P.

The gross mistakes of the peerages have led me rather unwillingly into this length of note.

D

Katherine.

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Katherine. He died in 1593, aged 47, and was succeeded by his brother William, 4th. Lord Chandos,* who died 1602, leaving issue, by Mary, daughter of Sir Owen Hopton, Knt.† Grey Bridges, 5th. Lord Chandos, a man of most amiable disposition, and extraordinary accomplishments; who, from his great interests in Gloucestershire, and numerous attendants, when he came to court, was called The King of Cotswold. But there is a light, in which he seems to have pretensions to be considered, which have never yet been mentioned. He appears to have a right to a niche in the Temple of Fame, which has been raised by the elegant, and inimitable pen of Mr. Walpole, in his "Royal and Noble Authors." In 1620, there was published by Edward Blount, the bookseller, a small duodecimo, entitled "*Horæ Subsecivæ, Observations, and Discourses,*" which the late Dr. Lort had seen ascribed to Lord Chandois. They who read the Essay on a Country Life, and at the same time attend to the character of Grey, Lord Chandois, can, I think, have little doubt that he was the author of it. The book appears to be written by a man of rank, of very solid understanding, high accomplishments, and enlarged acquaintance with the world. He died at Spaw, in Italy, in 1621, but was buried at Sudeley.‡ George, Lord Chandos, his son and heir, was then little more than a year old. In the unfortunate rebellion against Charles I. this nobleman was an eminent defender of his Sovereign. He particularly distinguished himself at the battle of Newbury,|| and had the offer of an earldom, which he modestly declined till the King's affairs should be more prosperous.

In 1642 his castle of SUDELEY was besieged by the rebels under Massie, with 300 musqueteers, &c. and, after a long siege, and several assaults and batteries, when they were almost smothered by the smoke of the hay and barns, burnt about the house, yielded in January, that year. Then it was that those tasteless and cruel wretches ruined this noble castle, and unroofed, and rendered bare, even to the very walls, the beautiful Gothic chapel here, destroying the memorials of the dead, breaking down the monuments of the CHANDOSES; and, "into "the vault, where they lay" (to use the expressions of Mercurius Rusticus §) "casting the "guts and garbage of slaughtered sheep, mingling the loathsome entrails of beasts, with those "bones and ashes, which did there rest in hope of a joyful resurrection." It was again recovered, and again besieged in 1644. Lord Clarendon then mentions its Lord as "a young man "of spirit and courage, who had, for two years, served the king very bravely at the head of "a regiment of horse."¶ He died 1654 without issue male, having settled the inheritance of his estates on Jane, his last wife (daughter* of John Savage, Earl Rivers) who re-married George Pitt, of Stratfield-Say, in Hants, carried them into that family, whose heir male,

* See a curious letter of his upon a dispute between him, and the widow of his elder brother, regarding Sudeley, and other estates. Harl. MSS. 6995, p. 92.

† There is a good portrait of Sir Owen, and of another of his daughters, at Lord Guildford's seat at Wroxton, in Oxfordshire.

‡ His burial is entered in the parish register of Winchcombe, but still I presume he was buried at Sudeley.

|| See Lloyd's Loyalists, p. 367.

§ P. 67, 68. in which see a more minute account, as well as in Shaw's Tour to the West of England, p. 244.

¶ History of the Rebellion, 11. p. 409.

George

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George Pitt, of Stratfield-Say, now Baron Rivers, still possesses SUDELEY CASTLE, and other parts of the Chandos estates. But George, Lord Chandos, was succeeded in his barony by his brother William, 7th Lord Chandos, who dying in 1676, was succeeded by his cousin, Sir James Bridges, Bart. the great grand-son of Charles, 2d son of John, 1st Lord Chandos. Which Charles Bridges, of Wilton Castle before-mentioned, had issue by Jane, daughter of Sir Edward Carne, of Wenny, Co. Glamorgan. (widow of Sir ----- Huntly, besides two younger sons, who died without issue male,) Giles, his son and heir, born 1580, and created a baronet 1627; who, dying 1637, left issue three sons.* Sir John Bridges, of Wilton, Baronet, 1st son, born 1623, is said to have been a person of amiable disposition, handsome person, and excellent accomplishments, who, not choosing to interfere in the quarrel between the King and parliament, when Herefordshire was over-run with dissensions about it, transported himself, as not caring then to rest on his bed of ease, to Ireland, whence returning to raise recruits for that service, he found himself in great odium with Barnaby Scudamore, and Henry Lingen, then entrusted, on the part of the crown, with the government of Hereford city; who, for some cause, well or ill founded, burnt his castle at Wilton, and left nothing but bare walls, which is said to have been an act of spleen and malice, as the place, then a delightful mansion, was built rather in form of an house than a castle, and could have never been made a place of defence.† This of course confirmed him in the part he took, and he was very instrumental in the surprize of Hereford by the parliament army. He died of the small-pox, in Bridges-street, Covent Garden, in February 1651, aged 29, having married Mary, daughter and heir of James Pearle of Dewfall, and Aconbury, Esq; ‡ who re-married Sir William Powell, of Pengethly,|| Bart.

Sir James Bridges, Bart. (only son of Sir John) born at Aconbury, Sept. 2, 1642, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Henry Barnard, Knt. May 4, 1665, and succeeded his cousin William, as 8th Lord CHANDOS of SUDELEY, in 1676. In 1680, the Turkey company, tired of the outrages committed on their merchants in that kingdom by the Grand Vizirs Avanias, and having determined to recall Sir John Finch, pitched upon Lord Chandos as ambassador to Constantinople, it being usual for the crown to leave that affair to them. Roger North § mentions a story, that, as it was customary for the candidates to apply to them in way of interest-making, Lord Chandos kept company, and drank with them; and, to shew himself the more qualified, let his whiskers grow, after the manner of the Turks, which made

* The three sons of Charles, second son, died issueless. Giles, third son, also died issueless.

† The castle has never since been habitable. A view of its ruined walls on the river Wye, may be seen in Gilpin's Tour down that river.

‡ Wilton-castle being now in ruins, the family resided at Aconbury (which came from the Pearles thro' the Parreys) and at Dewfall, till the death of James, Lord Chandos, 1714, which two seats are now farm-houses belonging to Guy's Hospital, and retain no traces of former splendour. These two parishes join, and lie together about 5 miles beyond Ross, on each side of the road that leads from thence to Hereford.

|| She had issue by him, from whom, I presume, descends the present Powell Symmonds, of Pengethly, Esq; which is an ancient seat lying between Wilton and Aconbury. Lady Powell lies buried at Aconbury under a flat stone.

§ In his Examen, p. 466, 467.

S U D E L E Y C A S T L E.

a very odd figure. He adds, that when he was chosen by them, the king for some time hesitated to confirm their choice, because he thought they had acted too independent of him, and without his participation, though the noble Lord wore the ensign in his countenance every day in public. Upon begging pardon however, the king made him embassador, and he performed the trust with great honour and content to the merchants." He left London, Feb. 21, 168 $\frac{1}{2}$, and arrived at Constantinople, July 22, 1681. Having resided there near seven years, he returned to England Feb. 19, 168 $\frac{1}{2}$; and, dying in 1714, aged 72, was buried at Aconbury.

His eldest son, James, the magnificent Duke, was raised, in 1714, to the earldom of Carnarvon, and, in 1719, to a dukedom.* His grandson, James, Duke of Chandos, died, leaving only a daughter, Sept. 29, 1789. The three last lie buried at Cannons;† but the five first Lord Chandos all lie buried in Sudeley Chapel. George, 6th Lord, also is buried in a vault in the little side-chapel annexed to it. But no traces of monuments either of Katherine Parr, or of them, are now remaining. The inside is now the habitation of rabbits, and other animals. It is shocking to see the bones of so many eminent people subject to such indecent disturbance. The castle stands a mile from Winchcombe, (now a poor deserted town, but once famous for its abbey,) on the edge of Worcestershire and Warwickshire, and on the borders of the Cotswold-hills, a long chain of open and very elevated ground, famous for its extensive sheep-walks, from whence are the most noble views of all the surrounding country. There seems nothing remarkable in the scenery round the castle itself, but all the ornamental timber, all the ancient appendages of grandeur here, gradually vanished from it since its desertion. One way the view is shut in by a hill clothed with wood, under which the rebels placed the cannon that battered the walls of the castle to pieces. On another side it is open to distant views of the Cotswold-hills. No traces of the park are now to be seen. The building consisted of two courts, of which the outer one was built principally of timber and plaster, and probably contained the lodging rooms of the numerous retainers of a baronial residence like this: this part is still made use of for the house of Lord Rivers's steward. The inner court was built of stone, with a tower at the four corners, and had in it a noble hall, and, probably, all other apartments of state. It seems, by the concurrent testimony of historians, to have been esteemed the most magnificent building of its day, which was the reign of Hen. VI. Leeland's words have been already cited, and Fuller,‡ in his quaint language calls it " Of subjects castles the most handsome habitation, and of subjects habitations the strongest castle."

* His eldest son, John, Marquis of Carnarvon, died in his father's life-time, leaving two daughters his co-heirs, Lady Katherine, wife of Edwin Stanhope, Esq; and Lady Jane, wife of her cousin, James Bridges, who died without issue 1789.

† Cannons is well known to have been sold in 1744, piece-meal, by a public auction.

In the account of this family, I have been drawn into a greater length than I intended, but I have endeavoured to avoid repeating scarce any thing from peerages and common printed books.

‡ Worthies, p. 356.

F I N I S.

